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El Salvador - Honduras: The restoration of relations between the two countries is being complicated by confusion within the Salvadoran Government over the proper policy to follow.

Salvador has failed to honor an agreement to withdraw its troops a prudent distance from the frontier and to restore direct telecommunications with Honduras. This is due to the lack of strong presidential leadership in the face of a split within the administration over the merits of a policy of firmness versus a policy of conciliation.

The Honduran Government, which implemented the Salvadoran plan for troop withdrawal, has been embarrassed by the Salvadoran backsliding. The Lopez government is being publicly criticized for ineptly handling the war and propaganda battle with El Salvador. The government therefore may find it impossible to deal effectively with Salvador's primary complaint that the rights of Salvadorans in Honduras are not being safeguarded. The Salvadorans have been concerned about the continual exodus of Salvadorans from Honduras and by unfounded press reports that these people have been expelled.

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